



City of Palo Alto

City Council Staff Report

(ID # 5257)

Report Type: Consent Calendar

Meeting Date: 11/17/2014

Summary Title: Approval of Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant of \$88,010 to Palo Alto Art Center

Title: Approval of Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant of \$88,010 to Palo Alto Art Center for a Collaborative Project Between the Palo Alto Art Center and the Junior Museum and Zoo

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Community Services

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council authorize:

1. Approval of an \$88,010 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to the Palo Alto Art Center for the project *Creative Ecology: Exploring our Environment with Art, Science, and the Community*, a collaborative STEAM education project between the Palo Alto Art Center and Junior Museum and Zoo; and
2. The City Manager or his designee from the Community Services Department to manage the grant, including submission of the grant, reports, and requests for reimbursement.

Executive Summary

Creative Ecology is an innovative art and science residency program that promotes learning about and appreciation of the natural world through the creative process, engaging artists, art and science educators, and the larger community. This unique STEAM education and exhibition opportunity is intended to provide a model for the museum field. Receipt of grant funds and expenditures will commence in Fiscal Year 2016.

Background

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Their mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Their grant making, policy development, and research to help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities

and individuals to thrive.

This grant program is highly competitive. "The Institute of Museum and Library Services enlists hundreds of library and museum professionals throughout the United States to review grant applications and make recommendations on projects most worthy of funding," says IMLS Director Susan H. Hildreth. "Receiving a grant from IMLS is significant achievement and we congratulate the Palo Alto Art Center for being among the 2014 IMLS museum grantees."

Discussion

This IMLS grant will be used to support the *Creative Ecology: Exploring Our Environment with Art, Science, and the Community* project—a collaboration between the Palo Alto Art Center and the Junior Museum and Zoo. This 18-month project, commencing in July 2015, will comprise a series of four artist residencies, each with an artist who explores the natural world in his or her artwork. Each artist, with a group of community participants, will explore the natural open spaces around Palo Alto, then create a culminating artwork in the Palo Alto Art Center's Glass Gallery. An art educator from the Palo Alto Art Center and a science educator from the Junior Museum and Zoo will work together to create opportunities for learning and engagement in the residency and with associated programming around the culminating exhibition

Project intended results are as follows:

- Adults and children will discover connections between art and science, and in the exhibited artwork, see how they can be successfully employed together
- Children will be able to adopt 21st-century skills through STEAM-based learning projects
- Children and adults will gain a greater appreciation of their local open-space environments and develop a personal connection to the environment, which in turn encourages community-based stewardship
- Children will learn scientific and artistic literacy skills and develop ways of thinking that they can use in their continued education
- Adults will gain exposure to working artists' perspective, materials, and processes
- Art and science museums elsewhere will learn about, and possibly employ, a model for interdisciplinary education that incorporates art and science

The IMLS grant will fund the honoraria for participating artists and the fees associated for the art and science educators, along with materials. Per the Official Award Notification, (Attachment A) the City is required to provide \$90,627 in cost sharing and staff is proposing an in-kind match of regular and temporary salaries to satisfy this requirement.

Timeline

The *Creative Ecology* project will commence in July 2015 with the first residency project. Prior to that, Palo Alto Art Center and Junior Museum staff will select

participating artists (April 2015) and coordinate contracting for art and science educators (June 2015).

Resource Impact

The City's grant award for is \$88,010 and the City's grant match is \$90,627. Staff plans to accept the award early in Fiscal Year 2016. To fulfill the matching requirements, staff is recommending an in-kind match of regular and temporary salaries from the department's Fiscal Year 2016 budget, subject to City Council approval.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: MA-10-14-0431-14 Award Notification (7) (PDF)



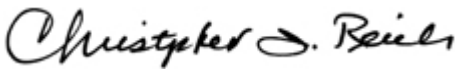
**Official Award Notification for Grants and
Cooperative Agreements**

Date of Award August 12, 2014

Awardee Name and Address City of Palo Alto Org. Unit: Palo Alto Art Center Foundation, Inc 1305 Middlefield Road Palo Alto, CA 94301-3349	Museums for America
	MFA-Learning Experiences
	Award Number MA-10-14-0431-14
Authorizing Official Rebecca Barbee 1313 Newell Road Palo Alto, CA 94303	Award Period From October 01, 2014 To March 31, 2016
Project Director Lisa Ellsworth 1313 Newell Road Palo Alto, CA 94303	Total Award Amount \$ 88,010.00 08/12/2014 \$88,010.00 Original Award

Basic Award Information

1. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides this grant support pursuant to 20 USC § 9101 et seq.
2. The award is made in support of the purposes set forth in the original application or, if noted in the special terms and conditions of the award, in a revised plan of work that has been approved by IMLS program staff.
3. The administration of this grant and the expenditure of grant funds are subject to the special terms and conditions of this award, which appear on the second page of the award notification, and the General Terms and Conditions for IMLS Discretionary Awards. The latter document incorporates by reference the audit requirements of OMB Circular A-133 and the applicable uniform administrative requirements and cost principles promulgated by the Office of Management and Budget.
4. The first request for payment will indicate the grantee's acceptance of the award.
5. The schedule of due dates for financial and performance reports is attached as the final page of the award notification.

IMLS Authorizing Official Signature 	Name and Title Christopher J. Reich Senior Advisor, Office of Museums
Accounting Code: 59140301P0.2014.MP140.65010.41 CFDA Number: 45.301 59140301P0.2014.MP140.65010.41	TIN No. - 946000389 DUNS No. - 050520782

IMLS CONTACTS

Questions related to changes in project activities, personnel, and budgets or the extension of the grant period should be addressed to Helen Wechsler at (202)653-4779 or hwechsler@imls.gov.

Questions related to the processing of payments, financial reports, notices of overdue reports, interest earned on grant funds, or audit requirements should be sent via e-mail to the financial specialist for your award, whose name and contact information may be found at <http://www.imls.gov/recipients/administration.aspx>. Alternatively, you may e-mail grantsadmin@imls.gov. Please include your log number, MA-10-14-0431-14, in the subject line of your message.

SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

The budget submitted on July 3, 2014 is approved. Changes in this budget will be subject to the limitations set forth in the General Terms and Conditions for IMLS Discretionary Awards.

The grantee is required to cost share project expenses at no less than the level indicated in the approved budget. The approved budget includes a cost share of \$90,627.

The grantee is required to secure prior written approval from IMLS to replace or to substantially reduce the level of effort of the Project Director or the Authorizing Official identified on page 1 of this grant award notification, and/or of any personnel named in the List of Key Project Staff and Consultants submitted with the application. All requests for approval of such changes must be submitted as set forth in the General Terms and Conditions for IMLS Discretionary Awards.